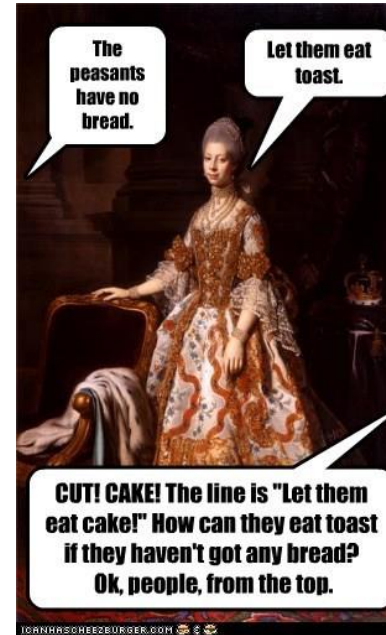


**Aim #5: How did the National  
Assembly attempt to reform France?**

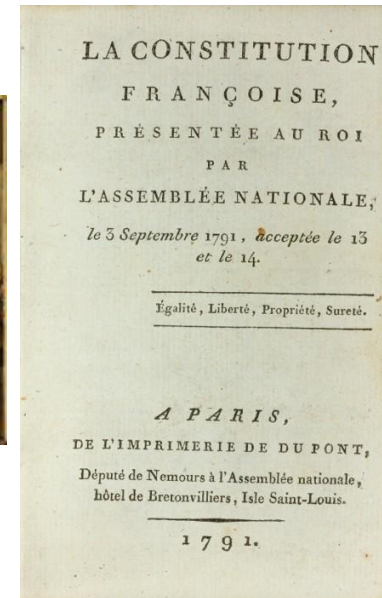
# National Assembly (1789-91) Reforms



# National Assembly Reforms

- **New Constitution** drafted & ratified September 1791

- N.A. became **Legislative Assembly**
- Checked power of monarch
- Became constitutional monarchy



- **Flight & Capture of Louis XVI & Marie Antoinette (6/21/91)**
- **Declaration of Pillnitz (August 1791)** European monarchs aimed to restore Louis's power
  - Afraid of spread of revolution
- **Tensions rising**



# Declaration of the Rights of Man

## August 26, 1789





# Declaration of the Rights of Man & Citizen

Approved by the National Assembly of France, August 26, 1789

Approved by the National Assembly of France, August 26, 1789

[ . . . ]

1. Men are born and remain free and equal in rights. Social distinctions may be founded only upon the general good.
2. The aim of all political association is the preservation of the natural and imprescriptible rights of man. These rights are liberty, property, security, and resistance to oppression.
3. The principle of all sovereignty resides essentially in the nation. No body nor individual may exercise any authority which does not proceed directly from the nation.
4. Liberty consists in the freedom to do everything which injures no one else . . .
5. Law can only prohibit such actions as are hurtful to society. . . .
6. Law is the expression of the general will. . . .
7. No person shall be accused, arrested, or imprisoned except in the cases and according to the forms prescribed by law. . . .
8. The law shall provide for such punishments only as are strictly and obviously necessary . . .
9. As all persons are held innocent until they shall have been declared guilty, if arrest shall be deemed indispensable, all harshness not essential to the securing of the prisoner's person shall be severely repressed by law.
10. No one shall be disquieted [bothered] on account of his opinions, including his religious views, provided their manifestation does not disturb the public order established by law.
17. Since property is an inviolable [cannot be violated] and sacred right, no one shall be deprived [of them] except where public necessity, legally determined, shall clearly demand it, and then only on condition that the owner shall have been previously and equitably [paid back].



*à Versailles à Versailles du 3. Octobre 1789.*



# Civil Constitution of the Clergy\*, July 1790



\*(the nobility had already been abolished, May 1790)

# Flight & Capture of Louis XVI & Marie Antoinette at Varennes, June 1791



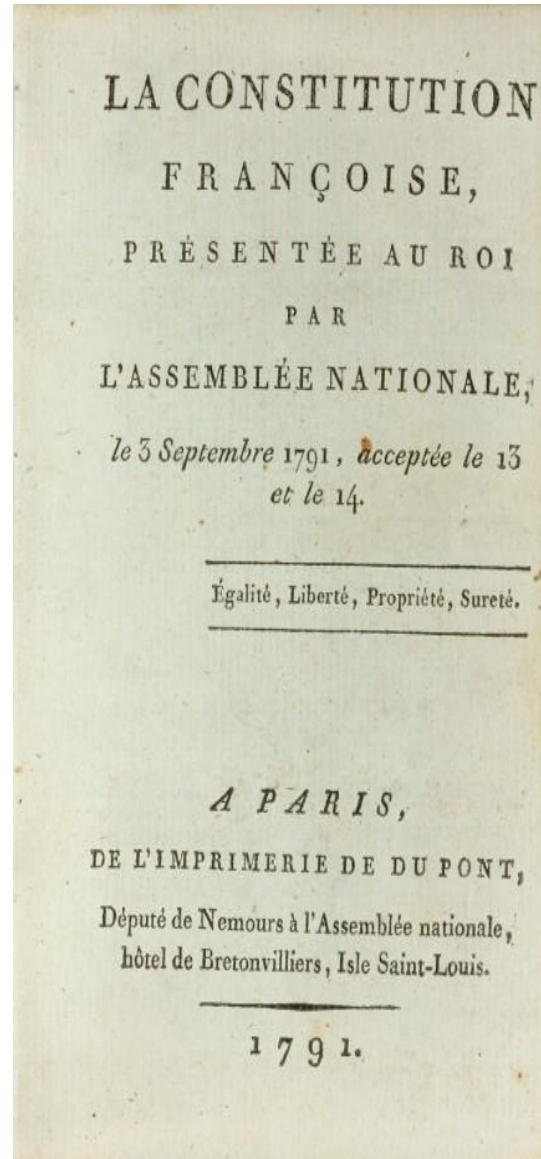


# Declaration of Pilnitz, August 1791

“Their Majesties, the Emperor and the King of Prussia . . . jointly declare that they view the situation in which the King of France currently finds himself as a subject of common interest for all of Europe's sovereigns. . . . Consequently, jointly with their respective Majesties [the other monarchs of Europe], they will use the most efficient means in relation to their strengths to place the King of France in a position to be totally free to consolidate the bases of a monarchical government that shall be as amenable [agreeable] to the rights of sovereigns as it is to the well-being of the French nation. . . . Meanwhile, they shall issue their troops the necessary orders to prepare them for action.”

- **Who is the author?**
- **What is his Point of View?**
- **Who is his Audience?**
- **What is his Purpose?**

# New Constitution drafted and ratified September 1791



# Legislative Assembly Takes Over -- October, 1791

A fight for the soul of the Revolution  
ensues . . .



# France Declares War on Austria

April 1792



# Prussia Declares War on France

June 1792

**SQ 9.** What occurred during the National Assembly Stage of the French Revolution? During this stage, what were the revolutionaries able to achieve? How do we know?

Based on what you have learned, complete the task below.

**Task 1**

Event	How did this event help the French people meet their revolutionary goals?
1. The Decree Abolishing the Feudal System, August 4, 1789	
2. <i>The Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen</i> , August 27, 1789	
3. The Women's March on Versailles, October 5th-6th, 1789	
4. The Constitution of 1791, September 3, 1791	

**Task 2**

Based on what you've learned so far, was the French Revolution successful? (Circle One)

YES	SOMEWHAT	NO
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Explain using evidence.

# National Assembly Stage: 1789-1791

→ Directions: Using the image and text below, respond to the questions.

## May 1789: Estates General



The opening of the Estates General May 5, 1789  
[Image](#) is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons and is public domain

## May 1789: National Assembly



National Assembly Coat of Arms  
[Image](#) is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons and is public domain

## June 1789: Tennis Court Oath



Drawing by Jacques-Louis David of the Tennis Court Oath.  
[Image](#) is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons and is public domain

The Estates General was a general meeting where **representatives** from the French estates (the clergy, the nobility, and the commoners) gathered. The Estates General had not met since 1614. In May 1789, King Louis XVI called the three estates together in the midst of the social, political, and economic issues to discuss the problems that France faced.

At the Estates General each estate only had one vote. Even though the third estate, or the commoners, had the largest **population**, they did not receive what they felt was fair representation in the **decision-making**. The third estate feared that they would be overruled and outvoted. Because of this fear, the third estate broke away and formed the **National Assembly** in June 1789.

The National Assembly met at a tennis court nearby where they took the **Tennis Court Oath**. In the oath, they promised to not disband until they created a new national **constitution**. King Louis XVI attempted to force the National Assembly to **disband**, however, they refused. The king had to recognize the National Assembly. Some saw this recognition as a weakening of the king's power.

1. What was the Estates General?

3. Why did the third estate form the National Assembly?

5. What was the tennis court oath? What was their goal?

2. How might the Estates General have moved France closer to a revolution?

4. How might the National Assembly have moved France closer to a revolution?

6. How might the Tennis Court Oath have moved France closer to a revolution?



# July 1789: Storming the Bastille

Watch [French Revolution - Storming of the Bastille](#) (26:08 to 31:55) and complete the questions below.

July 1789: Storming the Bastille



*The Storming of the Bastille* by Jean-Pierre Houel, 1789

Image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons and is public domain.



Watch [French Revolution - Storming of the Bastille](#) (26:08 to 31:55) and complete the questions below.

Why was the Bastille stormed?

Why was the Storming of the Bastille a turning point in French history?

## THE FRENCH REVOLUTION BEGINS!

Based on what you've learned about the French Revolution's causes so far, what do you think the revolutionaries wanted to accomplish?

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## The Decree Abolishing the Feudal System, August 4, 1789

A **decree** is an official order from a government. The Decree Abolishing the Feudal System was passed by the National Assembly on August 4, 1789.

ARTICLE I. The National Assembly hereby completely **abolishes** the feudal system...

ARTICLE III. The exclusive right to hunt and to maintain unenclosed warrens [network of rabbit burrows] is likewise abolished, and every landowner shall have the right to kill, or to have destroyed on his own land, all kinds of game, observing, however, such police regulations as may be established with a view to the safety of the public.

ARTICLE V. Tithes [one-tenth of annual earnings taken as tax to support the Catholic church and its clergy] of every description...are abolished, on condition, however, that some other method be devised to provide for the expenses of divine worship, the support of the officiating clergy, for the assistance of the poor, for repairs and rebuilding of churches and parsonages, and for the maintenance of all institutions, seminaries, schools, academies, asylums, and organizations to which the present funds are devoted.

Source: Copyright © Hanover Historical Texts Collection. Used by permission of Hanover College, Hanover, IN. from the NYS Social Studies ToolKit. <http://www.c3teachers.org/inquiries/frenchrev/>



Print created by Charles Monnet and Isidore Helman depicting the passage of the Decree Abolishing the Feudal System. [Image](#) is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons and is public domain.

**Purpose for Examining Document:** To identify the revolutionary goals of the French Revolution.

<b>AUDIENCE</b> Who was the intended audience of the source? What do you know about the audience?	<b>PURPOSE</b> What was the purpose of the source? Why did the author create it?	<b>POINT OF VIEW</b> What is the author's opinion? What claims does the author make? Why does the author have that opinion?	<b>RELIABILITY</b> Is the document <i>reliable</i> , <i>somewhat reliable</i> , or <i>unreliable</i> as a source of evidence for your research purpose? Why? What other sources would be helpful to corroborate?



## Excerpt from the Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen, August 27, 1789

The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen was issued by the National Assembly on August 27, 1789.

The representatives of the French people, organized as a National Assembly, believing that the ignorance, **neglect**, or **contempt** [disgust] of the rights of man are the sole cause of public calamities [disaster] and of the corruption of governments, have determined to set forth in a solemn [serious] declaration the natural, unalienable [not able to be given away], and sacred rights of man...

1. Men are born and remain free and equal in rights. Social **distinctions** may be founded only upon the general good.
2. The aim of all political association is the preservation of the natural and imprescriptible [in law] rights of man. These rights are liberty, property, security, and resistance to oppression.
6. Law is the expression of the general will. Every citizen has a right to participate personally, or through his representative, in its foundation. It must be the same for all, whether it protects or punishes...
9. As all persons are held innocent until they shall have been declared guilty...
11. The free communication of ideas and opinions is one of the most precious of the rights of man. Every citizen may, accordingly, speak, write, and print with freedom, but shall be responsible for such abuses of this freedom as shall be defined by law.

Source: From *The French Revolution and Human Rights: A Brief Documentary History*, translated, edited, and with an introduction by Lynn Hunt. Copyright © 1996. Reprinted by permission of Bedford/St. Martin's, from the NYS Social Studies Toolkit. <http://www.c3teachers.org/inquiries/frenchrev/>

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Watch [French Revolution - Women's March on Versailles](#) (31:55 to 39:38) and complete the questions below.

**October 1789:** Women from Paris marched to the Palace at Versailles, captured Louis XVI and his family, and forced them to come to Paris.



Illustration of the Women's March on Versailles, October 5th and 6th, 1789

[Image](#) is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons and is public domain.



Watch [French Revolution - Women's March on Versailles](#) (31:55 to 39:38) and complete the questions below.

1. Why did the women (and men) march from Paris to Versailles?

2. What were King Louis XVI and his family forced to do as a result of the march?

## Excerpt from Olympe de Gouges, The Declaration of the Rights of Woman and Citizen, September 1791

Marie Gouze (1748–93) was a self-educated butcher's daughter from the south of France who, under the name Olympe de Gouges, wrote pamphlets and plays on a variety of issues, including slavery. De Gouges was executed in 1793 and condemned as a counterrevolutionary. [Source](#)

Mothers, daughters, sisters, female representatives of the nation ask to be constituted as a national assembly. [We] have resolved to set forth in a solemn declaration the natural, inalienable, and sacred rights of woman...

1. Woman is born free and remains equal to man in rights. Social **distinctions** may be based only on common utility.
2. The purpose of all political association is the preservation of the natural and imprescriptible rights of woman and man. These rights are liberty, property, security, and especially resistance to oppression.
6. The law should be the expression of the general will. All citizenesses and citizens should take part, in person or by their representatives, in its formation. It must be the same for everyone. All citizenesses and citizens, being equal in its eyes, should be equally admissible to all public dignities ....
11. The free communication of thoughts and opinions is one of the most precious of the rights of woman, since this liberty assures the recognition of children by their fathers...
13. For maintenance of public authority and for expenses of administration, taxation of women and men is equal; she takes part in all forced labor service, in all painful tasks...
16. Any society in which the guarantee of rights is not assured or the separation of powers not settled has no constitution. The constitution is null and void if the majority of individuals composing the nation has not cooperated in its drafting.

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**Purpose for Examining Document:** To identify the revolutionary goals of the French Revolution.

<b>AUTHOR</b> Who created the source? What do you know about the author?	<b>AUDIENCE</b> Who was the intended audience of the source? What do you know about the audience?	<b>PURPOSE</b> What was the purpose of the source? Why did the author create it?	<b>POINT OF VIEW</b> What is the author's opinion? What claims does the author make? Why does the author have that opinion?	<b>RELIABILITY</b> Is the document <i>reliable</i> , <i>somewhat reliable</i> , or <i>unreliable</i> as a source of evidence for your research purpose? Why? What other sources would be helpful to corroborate?

## The Constitution of 1791, September 3, 1791

The Constitution of 1791 was the first constitution written during the French Revolution. This constitution abolished the monarchy.

3. The **legislative** power is delegated to a National Assembly, composed of temporary representatives freely elected by the people, to be exercised by it, with the **sanction** [approval] of the King, in the manner hereinafter determined.

4. The government is monarchical; the **executive** power is delegated to the King, to be exercised, under his authority, by ministers and other responsible agents in the manner hereinafter determined.

5. The **judicial** power is delegated to judges who are elected at stated times by the people.

Source: Excerpt from *The Constitution of 1791, September 3, 1791* from *The Constitutions and other Select Documents Illustrative of the History of France (1789-1907)*.

[https://archive.org/stream/cu31924026370936/cu31924026370936\\_djvu.txt](https://archive.org/stream/cu31924026370936/cu31924026370936_djvu.txt)

**3. Which Enlightenment philosopher most influenced this document? What is his idea called?**

**4. When the National Assembly creates a law, who has the power to approve it?**

**5. According to the Constitution of 1791, what role does the King have in the government?**